(b) and (c) This Project involves 3,267 hectare of forest land out of which 187 hectare falls in Papikonda Wildlife Sanctuary. Since forest area of Wildlife Sanctuary is involved, approval of National Board for Wildlife and Supreme Court is required before the proposal is considered for diversion of forest land under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. At the time of consideration of a proposal for diversion of forest land under the Act, certain conditions are imposed on the project authorities to safeguard the forest, bio-diversity and interest of forest dependent communities.

Cleaning Yamuna river

1241. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed sometime back for preparing a time-bound programme for cleansing the Yamuna river;

(b) whether the Hon'ble Court also directed that all encroachments on the banks of the river be expeditiously removed;

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to give effect the directives of the Court; and

(d) the progress achieved in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (d) Hon'ble supreme Court on 7th September, 2005 in the matter of WP(C) No. 725/ 1994 has issued directions for taking up the pollution abatement works in Yamuna in a time bound manner and that the progress in this regard be reviewed periodically by the Government of NCT of Delhi and in addition by an Apex Committee under the Hon'ble Court. Hon'ble Supreme Court on 10.01.2006 *inter-alia* has also made reference to the directions issued by Delhi High Court regarding removal of encroachment from the bank[c] of Yamuna and constitution of a Committee to monitor the same. The Hon'ble court in its hearing on 14th February, 2006 in the above matter [WP(C) No. 725/1994] has further observed that a concerted and integrated effort may be made to make a time bound plan for cleaning of the river, with directions to the authorities to file the affidavits in this regard before the Apex Court within a period of four weeks.